AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A nickel-hydrogen secondary battery comprising a positive electrode and a negative electrode opposite each other with a separator between, and contained in a container with an alkaline electrolyte;

wherein the positive electrode contains nickel hydroxide, and at least one element selected from a group ~~consisting of Y,~~ consisting of Yb, Er, Ca, Sr, Ba, Nb, Ti, W, Mo and Ta;

and

wherein the negative electrode contains a hydrogen- absorbing alloy having composition represented by a general formula $Ln_{1-x}Mg_x(Ni_{1-y}T_y)_z$,

where Ln is at least one element selected from a group consisting of the lanthanoids, Ca, Sr, Sc, Y, Ti, Zr and Hf, T is at least one element selected from a group consisting of V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Al, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si, P and B, and x, y and z are numerical values satisfying the requirements $0<x<1$, $0\leq y\leq 0.5$, and $2.5\leq z\leq 4.5$, respectively;

wherein the surface of the nickel hydroxide is coated with a cobalt compound; and

wherein the cobalt compound is a higher-order cobalt compound which has distorted crystal structure and contains alkali cations.

2. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the surface of the nickel hydroxide is coated with a cobalt compound.

3. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the cobalt compound is a higher-order cobalt compound which has distorted crystal structure and contains alkali cations.

4. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the average valency of nickel contained in the nickel hydroxide is higher than 2.

5. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 4, wherein the average valency of nickel contained in the nickel hydroxide is in the range of 2.05 to 2.30.

6. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 5, wherein the average valency of nickel contained in the nickel hydroxide is in the range of 2.10 to 2.30.

7. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the nickel hydroxide contains Co and Zn in a form of a solid solution.

8. (Currently Amended) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein the positive electrode contains at least one compound selected from a group ~~consisting of Y_2O_3,~~ consisting of Nb_2O_5, Yb_2O_3, Er_2O_3, $Ca(OH)_2$, SrO, $Ba(OH)_2$, TiO_2, WO_2, WO_3, MoO_2, MoO_3 and Ta_2O_5.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogen-absorbing alloy contains La, Nd, Pr, Co and Al.